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SUBJECT

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 Rushdi Kikhiya, & Syrian opposition leader, was called to the Precidency in the early part of January 1949 and was told that the idea of receiving aid from the USSR to help Syria in the Palestine situation, although it had been entertained at one time or another by many intelligent Syrians, was no longer feasible. President Quanetli complained that he had thought a great deal about the matter some time ago, but that, by now, the Soviets had succeeded in making Israel their focal point in the Hiddle East and, consequently, were no longer interested in winning the cooperation of Syria. Source reports that, previous to this visit by Kikhiya to the Presidency, Iluhammad Hubarak, Lender of the Ikham al-Huslimin in Damasons, had been called to the Presidency and given a similar talk.

2. A split has developed in the Syrian Communist Party over the tener of the Communist pamphlets and tracts distributed in the Arab countries, These propaganda publications have been criticized by a large number of Party members for containing long sulogies on the glories of the Soviet Union. These members feel that the Soviet Union is as much a foreign power as is Great Britain or the United States, and that propagands distributed in Syria should be concerned solely with Arab affairs, inasmuch as the najority of Syrians are interested only in what Communism can do for Syria, and not in Soviet world Communism. These Syrian Communists fear the Soviet Union as much as they fear any other great power. source clains.

> Document No NO CHANGE in DECL.

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